

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-15 OIC-04 AEC-11 AECE-00 OMB-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1836

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S E C R E T USNATO 4605

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: SEPTEMBER 27 SPC DISCUSSION OF SECTIONS IV AND V

REF: A) STATE 181536; B) STATE 184140

SUMMARY: SENIOR POLITICAL COMMITTEE HELD FIRST PARAGRAPH-BY-PARAGRAPH DISCUSSION OF SECTIONS IV AND V ON SEPTEMBER 27-28. THIS MESSAGE COVERS SEPTEMBER 27 MEETING DEVOTED TO SECTION V. PRINCIPAL DIFFICULTY WAS QUESTION OF AD HOC GROUP'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE COUNCIL; BELGIAN AND DUTCH REPS INTRODUCED SEVERAL AMENDMENTS TO STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF THE COUNCIL. FRG, UK AND OTHERS FOUND PAPER ACCEPTABLE WITH MINOR CHANGES. NEW BRACKETED TEXT WILL BE ISSUED INCORPORATING CHANGES IN BOTH SECTIONS IV AND V (SEPTEL).
END SUMMARY

1. CHAIRMAN (KASTL) INVITED COMMENTS ON U.S. CONTRIBUTION (CIRCULATED IN SPC SEPTEMBER 18) FOR TEXT AND CANADIAN REPS FELT PAPER WAS COMPREHENSIVE AND EXPLICIT, AND THAT WITH EXCEPTION OF FEW MINOR CHANGES, IT SHOULD BE RAPIDLY APPROVED BY SPC. TALKING
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UP SECTION IV, BELGIAN REP (WILLOT) BEGAN TO PUT FORWARD DELTAILED AND LARGELY MINOR CHANGES AND ADDITIONS TO TEXT, WHICH TOGETHER WOULD HAVE EFFECT OF CIRCUMSCRIBING AHG'S AUTONOMY AND UNDERLINING COUNCIL'S PRIVACY OVER ITS ACTIVITIES. DUTCH REP (SIZOO)

ALSO PROPOSED TEXTUAL CHANGES HAVING SAME EFFECT.

2. CANADIAN REP INTERJECTED THAT THIS NITPICH APPROACH SEEMED NEEDLESS AND SELF-DEFEATING IN ANY PROGRESS WAS TO BE MADE. U.S.

REP AGREED STONGLY AND NOTED THAT U.S. DRAFT DREW EXTENSIVELY FROM ALLIED VIEWS AS SET FORTH IN EARLIER BENELUX AND UK CONTRIBUTIONS. IT WAS DESIGNED NOT TO REPLACE, BUT TO FURTHER DEVELOP PO/72/413, IN LIGHT OF SUBSEQUENT EXPERIENCE. U.S. REP EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT IN VIEW OF FAVORABLE PRELIMINARY REACTIONS IN NAC AND SPC TO THESE PAPERS, BELGIAN AND DUTCH REPS INTENDED OBVIOUSLY TO INTRODUCE EXTENSIVE AMENDMENTS. HIGHLY BRACKETED TEXT WOULD CONVEY MISLEADING IMPRESSION TO THE COUNCIL OF BROAD DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ALLIES ON INTRA-ALLIANCE COORDINATION. HE SUGGESTED THAT IF CONCERNS OF SOME ALLIES APPEARED TO CENTER ON DISSATISFACTION WITH RELATIONSHIP OF AD HOC GROUP TO COUNCIL, AS SET FORTH IN U.S. TEXT, THEY SHOULD NOT PRINKLE ENTIRE PAPER WITH BRACKETS, INSTEAD, THEY SHOULD SEEK TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM FIRST AND IN ONE APPROPRIATE PLACE, AND THEN REVERT TO DETAILED REVIEW OF PAPER. REPS THEREUPON AGREED TO EXAMINE SECTION V FIRST.

3. IN ENSUING PARAGRAPH-BY-PARAGRAPH REVIEW OF SECTION V, BELGIANS AND DUTCH -- SUPPORTED BY ITALIANS AND OCCASIONALLY GREEKS -- SOUGHT IN GENERAL TO ENSURE THAT AD HOC GROUP WOULD EXECUTE THE COUNCIL'S BROAD POLICY MANDATE; THAT ITS ACTIVITIES REMAIN EXPLICITLY AT THE LEVEL OF TACTICS; AND THAT IF POLICY QUESTION AROSE ON WHICH COUNCIL HAD NOT ALREADY TAKEN A DECISION, THESE QUESTIONS WOULD BE EXPEDITIOUSLY REFERRED TO THE COUNCIL. PRINCIPAL EFFECT OF DISCUSSION WAS TO BRACKET CURRENT VERSIONS OF PARAS C AND D AND TO ESTABLISH ALTERNATIVE BRACKETED FORMULATION PROPOSED BY DUTCH WHICH WOULD INCORPORATE LANGUAGE FROM UK STEERING BRIEF AS WELL AS PARTS OF PARA H2 FOR PARA C; AND REMAINDER OF PARA H2 FOR PARA D. PARA H2 THUS ALSO BRACKETED

4. TURNING TO PARA E, TOUR DE TABLE AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON
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CONCEPT OF ROTATING CHAIRMAN OVER INITIAL AND SUBSEQUENTLY WITHDRAWN BELGIAN INTERVENTION (SUPPORTED BY DUTCH) IN FAVOR OF PERMANENT CHAIRMAN. MILITARY COMMITTEE REP NOTED THAT PROVISION FOR MILITARY REPRESENTATION IN AHG SHOULD BE INCLUDED, TO WHICH BELGIAN REP ADDED A SIMILAR PROVISION FOR IS REPRESENTATION.. PROPOSALS MET WITH NO OBJECTION.

5. UK REP THEN MADE INFORMAL PROPOSAL THAT MILITARY REPS ASSIGNED TO DELEGATIONS BY GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AS A SUBGROUP TO THE AHG. CANADIAN REP (MARSHALL) VOICED STRONG OBJECTION, AND CONSENSUS FINALLY REACHED THAT WHILE MILREPS WOULD CERTAINLY MEET INFORMALLY, INSTITUTIONALIZED BODY WOULD BE UNDERSIRABLE, AND THAT APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE MADE BY AHG.

6. ON PARA G CANADIAN REP REGISTERED STONG OBJECTION TO CONCEPT OF FIXED DATES WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS EXCESSIVELY RESTRICTIVE. FRG REP (BOSS) CONCURRED AND PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE FOR THIRD PARAGRAPH, WHICH WILL APPEAR IN REVISED IS DRAFT DEBATE ALSO TURNED ON FREQUENCY OF VISITS, DUTCH REP STATING THAT TWICE A MONTH WAS PROBABLY TOO MUCH. UK REP NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH UK PERMREP PECK HELD CONTRARY POSITION EARLIER, FEELING NOW IS THAT THERE WOULD BE MERIT IN REGULAR VISITS AT FIXED DATES. DISCUSSION OF WHICH SPECIFIC DAYS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE ENDED INCONCLUSIVELY WITH THE BELGIAN REP SUGGESTION THAT PERMREPS MIGHT THEMSELVES INDICATE WHEN THEY WISHED TO RECEIVE AHR BRIEFING (E.G., THIS COULD BE ON A WEDNESDAY EVERY SECOND OR THIRD WEEK). AS TO WHICH CHAIRMAN WOULD REPORT, PREVAILING VIEW WAS THAT OUTGOING CHAIRMAN WOULD BE CHARGED WITH REPORTING TASK.

7. DISCUSSION ON SECTION V CONCLUDED WITH CHAIRMAN'S AGREEMENT TO ISSUE REVIED TEXT (SEPTTEL) INCORPORATING ALL PROPOSED TEXTUAL CHANGES AND BRACKETS. REVISED TEXT WILL ALSO INCORPORATE CHANGES MADE IN SECTION IV, DISCUSSED DURING SEPTEMBER 28 SPC MEETING (SEPTTEL).

8. WE WILL SUBMIT SEPTTEL MISSION COMMENTS ON NEW IS DRAFT.
RUMSFELD

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